

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

1. – 3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously presented) A method of evaluating onset or onset possibility of rheumatoid arthritis in a human subject, the method comprising the step of: detecting the presence or absence of a gene coding a protein comprising the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ. ID NO.:1 in the subject; and  
evaluating the onset or onset possibility of rheumatoid arthritis in the subject.

5. – 10. (Cancelled)